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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CRITICISM OF AMR MOUSA

- SUMMARY: A UAE COLUMNIST DIRECTED STRONG AND UNPRECEDENTED CRITICISM TO ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL AMR MOUSA, BLAMING HIM FOR DISREGARDING A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE LATE SHEIKH ZAYED, THUS PAVING THE WAY FOR THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF IRAQ. THE COLUMNIST URGES MOUSA TO PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS MISTAKE AND SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.
- 12. Under the headline "Will Amr do it?", Rashed Saleh Al-Uraimi wrote in his daily column in Abu Dhabi-based semi-official Arabic daily "Al-Ittihad" (circulation 65,000) 10/31:
- "Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince, recently revealed that just prior to the outbreak of war, Saddam Hussein and the U.S. agreed to an initiative launched by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in which Saddam would have gone into exile. Observers, historians, and other nations want to know the reason this golden opportunity was lost. It could have spared the unnecessary blood of many Iraqi victims. The answer can only come from the Arab League Chief who opposed including the initiative on the agenda for the Arab summit held in Sharm Al Sheikh. He should have acted to protect the national security of Arab nations, the security and stability of the Iraqi nation and the sovereignty and unity of Iraq, for which he now sheds crocodile tears.
- 13. ".The paradox today is that we see the Secretary-General

visiting cities in Iraq and making grand statements and promises that the Arab League will soon present an initiative that will solve all of Iraq's problems. This all could have been avoided with the adoption of Sheikh Zayed's noble initiative. Personally, I think the Secretary-General wasted this golden chance and is a political failure. He should admit he made a historic mistake for which the Iraqi nation is still paying a dear price. and tender his resignation as a token of his apology. But will Amr do it?"

SISON